

Please amend the application filed on even date herewith prior to proceeding with its examination.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A self-hardening glass carbomer composition obtainable by treating a fluorosilicate glass powder with:

(a) a poly(dialkylsiloxane) having terminal hydroxyl groups, wherein the alkyl groups contain 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

(b) an aqueous acid solution,

(c) separating the treated fluorosilicate glass powder from the aqueous acid solution.

2. (Currently Amended) The [S] self hardening glass carbomer composition according to claim 1, wherein the poly(dialkylsiloxane) is linear or cyclic.

3. (Currently Amended) The [S] self hardening glass carbomer composition according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the alkyl groups of the poly(dialkylsiloxane) are methyl groups.

4. (Currently Amended) The [S] self-hardening glass carbomer composition according to [any one of] claim[s] 1[-3], wherein the poly(dialkylsiloxane) has a kinematic viscosity in the range of about 1 to about 100,000 cSt at 25°C.

5. (Currently Amended) The [S] self-hardening glass carbomer composition according to [any one of] claim[s] 1[-4], wherein the particles of the fluorosilicate glass powder have an average size of about 0.5 to about 200µm.

6. (Currently Amended) The [S] self hardening glass carbomer composition according to [any one of] claim[s] 1[-5], wherein the aqueous acid solution comprises an inorganic acid or an organic acid.

7. (Currently Amended) The [S] self hardening glass carbomer composition according to claim 6, wherein the organic acid is a polymer.

8. (Currently Amended) The [S] self hardening glass carbomer composition according to [any one of] claim[s] 1[-7], wherein the aqueous acid solution has a pH in the range of 2 to 7.

9. (Original) Process for the preparation of a self hardening glass carbomer composition, wherein a fluorosilicate glass powder is treated with:

(a) a poly(dialkylsiloxane) having terminal hydroxyl groups, wherein the alkyl groups contain 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

(b) an aqueous acid solution,

(c) separating the treated fluorosilicate glass powder from the aqueous acid solution.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) A dental filling material prepared from the glass carbomer composition of claim 1.

12. (New) A dental bonding cement prepared from the glass carbomer composition of claim 1.

13. (New) A bone cement prepared from the glass carbomer composition of claim 1.

14. (New) A bone replacement material prepared from the glass carbomer composition of claim 1.